

WIND RETROFIT

Frequently asked Questions

- **Will FEMA pay to bring an existing structure up to or above the most recent locally adopted building code/wind speed?**

Yes, as long as the entire building is brought up to code.

- **Will FEMA build a new building which will exceed local building code design wind speed standards but will fall short of the design wind speed standards for a tornado or hurricane (FEMA-361)?**

No, FEMA will not build a new building but will pay for the additional costs (incremental costs) associated with strengthening a new building from the local code wind speed requirements to something higher.

- **Will FEMA retrofit an existing building with shutters, wind resistant windows, etc. which exceed the wind speed capability of the building envelope.**

No

- **Will FEMA pay for the retrofit of a building to be used as a community shelter?**

Yes, if that retrofit meets the requirements of FEMA-361 (Design and Construction Guidelines for Community Shelters).

- **Does FEMA-361 only apply to tornado shelters?**

No, FEMA-361 also applies to hurricane community shelters.

- **What are the most common omissions/errors made in retrofit applications?**

1. *Not identifying the building code and its design wind speed the structure was originally built to.*
2. *Not describing the project and/or protection provided by the proposed mitigation project in enough detail, i.e. building description, type of measures being proposed to mitigate the problem, applicable design codes, design wind speed, etc.*
3. *Not documenting past damages, i.e. the source of high winds (tornados, hurricanes, strong storms, etc.), dates, type and cost of damage for each event, not identifying the cause of the hazard (inadequate or no shuttering, built to old/now inadequate building code, etc).*
4. *Not identifying the flood zone the project is located in and/or not including a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) in the application.*

5. *Incomplete budget estimate – always avoid using lump sum estimates, itemize each element of materials and labor separately, include fees such as A&E design, surveying services, construction inspection, etc. (page 8 of 15).*
6. *Over or under estimating the total project cost.*
7. *Forgetting to sign the Maintenance Agreement (page 14 of 15).*
8. *Forgetting to use or complete the AEMA Wind Retrofit Worksheets – attach to application.*
9. *Not using the correct Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) module. The Hurricane Wind, Full-Data is the correct module to use on wind retrofit projects.*
10. *Incomplete data contained in the BCA and/or data that is contained in the BCA is not supported/documented elsewhere in the application.*
11. *Not including a second alternative (in addition to the “do nothing” alternative). The second alternative should contain a cost estimate and a complete description. (pages 10 and 11 of 15).*